

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00051 141338Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 MCT-01 EB-08 COME-00 PM-04
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15
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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1576
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 051

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL IRA TACTICS

REF: (A) BELFAST 49

1. PROVISIONAL IRA HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTEMPTS ON TWO BELFAST BUSINESSMEN LAST WEEK (REFTEL). FEBRUARY 13 A SHOOTING AND BOMB ATTACK WAS MADE ON NORTH BELFAST HOME OF PROMINENT WHOLESALE MERCHANT. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. TARGET WAS NOT RPT NOT ON FORTNIGHT LIST.

2. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) RESERVIST WAS AMBUSHED AND KILLED IN NORTH ANTRIM VILLAGE OF CLOUGHMILLS NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 12-13. PREVIOUS RUC RESERVIST KILLED WAS SHOT IN SIMILAR AMBUSH IN COUNTY DOWN VILLAGE OF GILFORD LAST WEEK. BOTH VILLAGES ARE MIXED COMMUNITIES AND HAVE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE OR NO VIOLENCE HERETOFORE.

3. BELFAST SUNDAY NEWS FEBRUARY 13 PRINTED "EXCLUSIVE" PHOTOGRAPHS ATTRIBUTED TO IRA SOURCES SHOWING HEAVILY ARMED PROVISIONAL IRA ACTIVE SERVICE UNIT IN MANUVERS "RECENTLY" AND "NORTH OF BORDER." ONE WEAPON SHOWN WAS BELT-FED
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.50 CALIBER HEAVY MACHINE GUN.

4. THERE FLOOD OF RUMORS BELFAST TODAY THAT PROVISIONALS FROM NORTH AND SOUTH OF BORDER WERE MEETING IN REPUBLIC WITH "NORTHERN CLERGYMEN".

5. ATTACKS ON BUSINESSMEN AND PART-TIME RESERVISTS WHO

ARE ALSO BUSINESS OR WORKING PEOPLE ARE ECONOMICAL IN TERMS OF RISKS RUN BY TERRORISTS AND IN EXPENDITURE OF SUPPLIES. AT SAME TIME ATTACKS GARNER CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY, AT LEAST LOCALLY. THERE SOME SPECULATION THAT RECENT ATTACKS IN MIXED VILLAGES WERE DESIGNED TO INSPIRE INTER-COMMUNITY HOSTILITY. CONGEN FAVORS VIEW THAT THEY SOFTER TARGET AREAS THAN ARE SUSPICIOUS URBAN AREAS. PATTERN OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND RELATIVE SCARCITY OF BOMB ATTACKS MAY MEAN PROVISIONALS ARE ORGANIZING FOR A SHOW OF STRENGTH.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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